

Ohio State University

Program Activities in India College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, The Ohio State University

1. Partnership with Punjab Agricultural University

An OSU delegation traveled to India in 2002 to participate in the 50th anniversary celebration of the Punjab Agricultural University. FAES was given the opportunity to help create this institution during the 1950's as part of a larger institution building program in higher agricultural education. In the process it also helped to develop Haryana Agricultural University and Himachel Pradesh Agricultural University, which at that time, were branch affiliates of PAU. This relationship waned during the 1980's as a result of strained relations between India and the U.S. that were caused by the Cold War. During this period, PAU played a pivotal role in promoting the Green Revolution in South Asia. This partnership was revitalized in the late 1990's, largely because of the active encouragement of then Ambassador Richard Celeste, previous Governor of the State of Ohio, who arranged for a high profile visit by an OSU delegation led by then President Brit Kirwan.

a) Food Processing in the Punjab Region – OSU and PAU are collaborating on a program focusing on post-harvest technology that is designed to strengthen the capacity of PAU to contribute to the development of value added industries in its region. This program is leading to increased employment and rural income in the Punjab, diversification of agriculture, and improved soil and water management. It represents an opportunity for FAES and the Ohio agribusiness community to learn more about the modernization of Indian agriculture and its related industries, its transition to middle income status, and the markets and collaborative business opportunities that it represents.

b) Exchanges of Faculty and Staff – PAU has sent a number of its faculty to work with counterparts at Ohio State University. These visits have resulted in reciprocal visits to Ludhiana by OSU collaborators to work on research and educational programs of mutual interest, specifically in soil and water management, meat processing and plant breeding.

c) Joint Program in Soil and Water Management – This research project has been in operation for the past four years. Supported by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust Fund, it partners FAES research scientists with counterparts at the M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation and universities in southern, central and northern India. This project has included collaborative field research at three sites, joint workshops, and joint publications. It is anticipated that the project, which is currently in its final stages, will be extended into a second phase when current OSU President Karen Holbrook visits India in late Winter, 2006.

2. Participation in World Bank-Funded Training Programs – Over the past six years, Ohio State University has received a large number of research scientists and teaching faculty for visits ranging from two weeks to three months duration. Many of them have traveled under a program that was administered by FAO and ultimately coordinated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. These research and teaching faculty were from universities located throughout India and represented disciplines ranging from soil and water management to biotechnology.

3. MOU with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research – OSU has a signed agreement with the ICAR that specifies a number of priority areas for research collaboration, including ergonomics and agriculture, genetic enhancement of field crops, plant biotechnology, integrated resource management for sustainable agriculture and environmental quality, farm mechanization and energy management in agriculture, post harvest technology, ruminant nutrition, and the physiology of animal reproduction.

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